

**BNSF**

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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

December 22, 2004

Mr. Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

DEC 23 2004

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Public Record



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 403X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment in Wichita, Kansas and between Wichita and Valley Center, in Sedgwick County, Kansas**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On March 4, 2003, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service between railroad milepost 494.22 and railroad milepost 505.20 in and near Wichita, Kansas, and from railroad milepost 515.23 to railroad milepost 509.30 between Wichita and Valley Center, in Sedgwick County, Kansas, a total distance of 16.91 miles. The lines traverse United States Postal Service Zip Codes 67147, 67204, 67206, 67208, 67214, 67219, and 67230. The STB authorized the abandonment to be effective on April 23, 2003. The initial abandonment consummation date was to be March 24, 2004. However, on April 22, 2003, the Board issued a decision in the above-referenced proceeding imposing a notice of interim trail use/rail banking ("NITU") condition permitting BNSF and the City of Wichita to negotiate a rail banking agreement for the portion of the line between railroad milepost 494.22 and railroad milepost 504.00 in and near Wichita, Kansas. The Board has subsequently extended the NITU up to and including April 11, 2005.

By letter dated March 24, 2004, BNSF informed the Board that the City of Wichita had commissioned a study to be done involving part of the trackage in the referenced docket which may be retained as part of an overall rail corridor re-routing plan to minimize the construction of highway overpasses in the area. Within that same letter, BNSF requested an extension of the consummation date until December 31, 2004, so that the City of Wichita and BNSF could determine whether or not the lines (or parts of the lines) should be retained for rail purposes in support of the City's relocation plan or otherwise abandon the lines as originally planned. Due to this study, BNSF has postponed any salvage activities of these lines.

Therefore, BNSF requests that the consummation date for the above-referenced docket be extended until December 31, 2005, so that BNSF may schedule and complete the salvage of these lines.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 347-8667 or [Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com](mailto:Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com).

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos  
Jerry Johnson  
Richard Batie  
Jon Tinker  
Randy Acosta  
James Ball